Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* In truth, I don't remember the details. I do not doubt that a discussion like that has taken place.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to sympathetically consider the question of further increasing the dearness allowance up to a pay of Rs. 150 in the light of that discussion or in any suitable manner. It was a cut under the General Administration.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* As I have stated before, the Government are always watching the situation. We have got the general indices of the cost of living. We are watching the position and if necessity arises, we will increase the Dearness Allowance.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I request the Government, Sir, to expedite the process of consideration in this behalf? Can I have an answer, Sir, from the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No further answer is necessary.

BOAT ACCIDENT—ERNAKULAM

72. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state whether enquiries were made regarding the recent motor boat accident near Ernakulam jetty. If so, will a copy of the report of the enquiry be placed on the table?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes. A copy of the Police Commissioner's report is appended. *(Please see Appendix II).*

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-women):* May I know what steps have the Government taken to avoid future accidents?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Revenue Authorities are in charge of the boat service; they have addressed the Chief Engineer to re-model the jetty and to have a re-modelled jetty so as to introduce the queue system and the Police are deputing police constables during rush hours to regulate the passengers.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know who conducted the enquiry?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Police Sub-Inspector who arrived at the spot conducted the enquiry.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was the boat overloaded at that time?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It could not be definitely ascertained whether the boat was overloaded or not. All the passengers entered the boat in a rush.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is it not the duty of the enquiring officer to find out the reasons that caused the accident, whether it was overloaded, etc.

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The cause of the accident is given in the report appended.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was it overloaded at the time? Did the officer find it out?

Mr. President: The report makes the cause of accident quite clear. Overloading of the boat did not cause the accident.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* That is immaterial. The enquiring officer should have ascertained whether there was overloading or not.

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Hon'ble Members could very well visualise the pell-mell then existing there. At that stage, the counting of the passengers was not the important point. The more urgent business was to remove the persons to the hospital.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* But during the enquiry?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It was rather difficult to find out who were the passengers and who were not.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Who informed the Police about this accident?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Police got the information, the station being very close and went to the spot.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Who informed the Police? Did any Police Officer inform the station?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I cannot say that for certain.

Mr. T. A. Ramchandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was there a Police Officer at the jetty?

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Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* There was a Police Officer.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* There was?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissior of Police):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Have any steps been taken to ascertain the number of tickets sold or anything of that sort?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was it the Police Officer who was on duty there, who informed the Police?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The constable sent information to the station, he did not himself go to the station.

ARTICLE IN THE "COCHIN EXPRESS" DATED 27th KANNI 1120

73. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulm):* Will Government be pleased to state whether they have noted the article "കൊച്ചി കൊച്ചുകാർക്കുമാത്രമോ" on page 4 of the "Cochin Express", dated 27th Kanni 1120?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Do the Government realise that there is a real danger if this slogan "Cochin for Cochinites" is carried too far.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Are not many Cochinites working in British India and other places?

Rama Varmha Thampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

ASSAM ANCHAL HUNDI SYSTEM—DELAY IN PAYMENT OF MONEY ORDERS

74. Mr. K. R. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that there is an impression among the general public in rural areas that since the introduction of the Assam Anchal Hundi System it very often takes a longer time than it used to take formerly for payees of hundies to receive the amounts sent from Assam and other places where Cochin Labour Units are working;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that hundi forms sent by Assam Labourers and received in Ernakulam Anchal Office are not promptly despatched then and there to the respective Anchal Offices, but are sent only when the number of forms destined to the respective Anchal Offices become appreciable in number ?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Government are not aware that there is such an impression among the general public in rural areas. On the other hand by the Labour Anchal Scheme hundies are more speedily and promptly paid, especially in rural areas. Unlike the Postal Department, every important village in the State has an Anchal Office and the Labour Hundies reach the payees with the least delay.

(*b*) It is not a fact. No delay is caused in the Ernakulam Anchal Office in the despatch of Labour Hundies. They are being despatched then and there to the respective destinations from the Ernakulsm Anchal Office.

Mr. K. R. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Have the Government received any complaints regarding the late payments of Labour Hundies?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No.

GUM FROM GROUND-NUT CAKES—MANUFACTURE OF PLYWOOD SHEETS

75. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

whother it has been brought to their notice that the gum necessary for the manufacture of plywood sheets can be extracted out of ground-nut cakes ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the Government are making any attempts to explore the possibility of getting gum?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Explore what?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* The possibility of extracting gum from ground-nut cakes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It has already been explored by private firms. Gum is being extracted by the Tata Oil Mills.

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APPENDIX I

(Please see answer to Question No. 64)

1119

Breed	Working animals	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Total	Deaths
Ongole	4	3	8	25	38	4
Scindi	2	5	10	29	46	6
Ongole X Scindi	1	..	2	8	11	1
Ongole X Pollachi	2	..	6	15	23	2
Pollachi and Locals	8	14	16	19	59	6
Kangayam	..	18	..	..	18	..
Buffaloe	11	1	4	9	25	2
Total	28	41	46	105	220	21

Causes of Deaths.— Of the 21 deaths, 16 were deaths of calves due to infestation of the stomach with round worms (Homonchus contortus) of the remaining five, one was the death of a calf due to deformity at birth, two were due to accidental falls, the fourth was a death in hospital while undergoing treatment for fracture of tibia and the fifth was a sudden death of a bullock of cause unknown.

1120

	Working animals	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Total	Deaths
Ongole	3	3	9	20	35	..
Scindi	2	5	12	22	41	3
Ongle X Scindi	..	..	3	5	9	..
Ongole X Pollachi	2	..	6	12	20	1
Pollachi and Locals	10	12	19	30	71	1
Kangayam	..	16	..	..	16	..
Buffaloe	10	1	8	10	29	4
Total	27	37	57	100	221	9

Reasons for Deaths.—One ongole pollachi cart bullock died of Anthrax. One buffaloe bullock died of bad liver and anaemia. One Scindi calf died of congenital deformity. The remaining 6 animals all calves, died of tape worms and round worms.

APPENDIX II

(Please see answer to Question No. 72)

The accident took place on 23rd October 1944, when the ferry boat sank before leaving the Ram Mohan Palace Jetty. When there was a rush of passengers the boat lost its balance and tilted as there was too much weight on one side. Immediately the Sub-Inspector of Police went to the spot with all available constables and Special Guards. The victims were sent to the General Hospital in a lorry. A boy aged 12 was among the victims and he alone died in the Hospital.

Arrangements have been made to prevent such mishaps.

APPENDIX III

(Please see answer to Question No. 76)

	Parvathiams	Menons	Additional Menons
Brahmin	..	..	..
Tamil Brahmin	..	2	10
Other Hindu	..	3	10
Do. Backward or Depressed Class	..	1	18
Ezhuvas	..	2	19
Pulayas	..	..	4
Nayars	..	11	59
Muslims	1	..	4
Romo Syrian	..	3	24
Latin Christian	..	..	3
Other Christian	..	..	5
	1	22	156

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